

Private & Confidential

MINUTES of a meeting of the ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD held at Putteridge Bury on SATURDAY 9 MARCH 2023

The Synod convened at 0930 with the Bishop of Bedford in the Chair. The Bishop welcomed Tim Coulson as the newly appointed Chair of the DBF.

PRAYERS were led by the Very Revd Jo Kelly Moore, Dean of St Albans Cathedral (St Albans Deanery).

1. PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The Bishop of Bedford addressed the Synod, and a copy of his Address is attached to the original Minutes. The Address may be found on the Diocesan website [here](#).

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of Synod held on Saturday 14 October 2023, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Bishop of Bedford.

The Minutes were accepted.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BUSINESS ITEMS

Bishop Richard noted those people who had recently joined or left the Diocese, taken up new roles within the Diocese, retired or died.

Chair: Peter Adams, Chair of the House of Laity, assumed the Chair

4. GROWING YOUNGER AND MORE DIVERSE

On behalf of the Bishop's Council, the Bishop of Hertford and, with the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No. 4, the Director of Mission and Ministry and the Strategic Programme Manager gave a verbal update.

There was an opportunity for questions.

5. QUESTIONS

No questions had been received.

6. FINANCIAL UPDATE

With the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No. 4 the Diocesan Secretary referred to the circulated filmed presentation.

There was an opportunity for questions and discussion.

7. **STIPEND LEVELS 2024**

With the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No. 4, Dr Tim Coulson, Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance, moved on behalf of the Board:

"That this Synod noting the amended recommendation from the Central Stipends Authority that national minimum and benchmark stipends be increased not by 5% but by 7% from 1 April 2024, resolves that the stipend for incumbents and those of incumbent status in this Diocese should rise by £2,078 (7% of £29,680) to £31,758 from 1 April 2024."

The Motion was PUT and CARRIED with 3 abstentions.

Chair: Reverend William Gibbs, Chair of the House of Clergy, assumed the Chair

8. **GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

With the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No. 4, the Diocesan Secretary introduced this item.

A copy of paper (DS/24/01) had been circulated.

9. **LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH**

On behalf of the Bishop's Council, the Bishop of Bedford gave an update.

There was an opportunity for questions.

10. **SAFEGUARDING**

With the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No. 4, the Diocesan Secretary gave an update on Safeguarding in the Diocese following the Jay Review.

A copy of paper (DS/23/02) had been circulated.

11. **DISABILITY**

On behalf of the Bishop's Council, the Bishop of Bedford and, with the Chairman's permission under Standing Order No. 4, the Baroness Brinton gave a presentation.

There was an opportunity for questions and discussion.

The Bishop of Bedford thanked everybody for their contributions and dismissed the Synod with prayers at 12.25.